

JPRS 80852

19 May 1982

Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 218

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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RESOURCES INDUSTRY SEEKS ADDITIONAL LANDSAT INFORMATION

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 25 Mar 82 p 15

[Article by Bruce Jacques]

[Text]

THE Australian resources industry has launched a campaign to persuade the Federal Government to undertake a \$6 million upgrading of the Landsat station to receive data from proposed new satellites.

The Indusat group, which represents most major local and overseas-owned resources companies in Australia as well as some key agricultural groups, wants the Government to include funding for the upgrading in the next Federal Budget.

Indusat president, Mr Dick Walker, yesterday said the campaign had been launched because the industry was worried that in the present climate of economic stringency the Government might try to avoid the Landsat expenditure.

He said the Australian resources and agricultural industries needed all available information from Landsat, the US satellite which gathers vital sensor data.

He said unless the upgrade was begun soon, Australia would not be prepared to receive information from the Landsat-D satellite, due for launch around the middle of this year.

This will be followed in late 1984 by the launch of the French-made SPOT satellite. Together the new satellites will offer enormous new information facilities to the resources and agricultural industries.

Mr Walker pointed out that the Landsat station, in Alice Springs, only became operational last year, eight years after the launch of the initial Landsat satellite.

He is concerned that any delay in upgrading the facilities to receive information from the new satellites could drag on and rob Australia of vital opportunities.

"The overwhelming demand for products from the Australian Landsat Station in its first year of operation confirms the correctness of the decision to install reception and processing facilities for Landsat MSS data in Australia," Mr Walker

said.

"It is clear, however, that while Landsats 1-3 provide data of coarse spatial and spectral resolution over a limited portion of the spectrum amenable to sensing from space, more sophisticated sensors are necessary to continue the momentum of development and benefit that has been initiated by this early system.

"Landsat-D and SPOT are tools of considerably increased power, but will themselves be joined by further complementary sensor platforms.

"Each link in this chain of continuity is essential if Australian scientists are to develop with the evolving technology and transfer the benefits of their work to society and the economy as a whole."

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CONTRACTS TO BOOST INDUSTRY

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 24 Mar 82 p 82

[Text]

In a booklet titled Communications and Electronics 1982, the industry says "No single electronics project will have greater impact on Australia or be singularly more important to the future of the industry in Australia than Aussat — the communications satellite."

The booklet says Aussat will greatly expand and improve the existing communications network; provide TV and radio services to outback Australia; increase the capacity for bulk, high-speed business data communications; enable much improved health care and education to reach remote locations; and improve meteorological and scientific data transfer facilities.

The first Australian satellite is scheduled to be launched in 1985. It will be positioned 36,000 km above the Pacific Ocean near Nauru. It will be able to act as a communication relay station between any two or more points in its coverage area of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Each solar-powered satellite will have 15 transponders, which receive a weak radio signal from earth and retransmit the amplified signal back to earth in another frequency. Each transponder will be able to handle one television programme and up to three radio programmes, or up to 1000 voice channels or 50 million "bits" (of information) a second.

Initially the satellite system will provide a national beam covering Australia and four more powerful spot beams, one each covering WA, South Australia and the Northern Territory, Queensland, and a fifth covering NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. A sixth spot beam will serve PNG.

Telecom will use the satellite to provide a remote telephony satellite service—allowing STD and ISD as well as local calls—in areas not reached by its ground microwave system. The satellite will also be used to provide extra trunk capacity and for emergency services.

The service that will probably have the most impact on the outback way of life will be HACESS—the home-stead and community broadcasting satellite service.

Initially, HACESS will provide one ABC colour TV channel and up to three ABC radio channels. But it also will have the capacity to provide a second commercial channel and radio service. Radio and TV programmes will be transmitted to the satellite from major earth stations in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide or Darwin.

The satellite facility will also expand, nationwide, private communication networks and the first of these are likely to be set up by such groups as the police, health authorities, gov-

ernment departments and mining companies. Transport Australia will set up about 440 earth stations to improve air traffic control.

The total satellite projects should give tremendous impetus to the high-technology segment of the telecommunications and electronics industry.

The booklet says that the industry within Australia is well capable of manufacturing, maintaining and supporting the ground segment of the project, from design right through to space tracking, as well as providing sophisticated electronic hardware for the space segment.

It adds: "The Federal Communications Minister has said that the Government will require the greatest possible Australian participation in the programme. That statement is encouraging to the industry. It is to be hoped that that promise becomes a reality."

Referring to defence contracts the document says: "In the developing electronic warfare environment, local industry is currently involved in the following major equipment projects — high frequency multi-channel radios, Barra Sonobuoys, establishment of mission ground support facility for P3-C Orion aircraft, integration of Barra system in P3-C Orions, Project Raven and Mulloka.

"The Barra Sonobuoy is one of the most significant projects ever under-

taken by the Australian defence industry and has established a world lead in submarine detection.

"It is a device, dropped into the sea by anti-submarine aircraft, which can operate at varying depths to detect and 'track' an enemy submarine.

"Its submerged and surface buoy electronic equipment can transmit accurate information directly to anti-submarine aircraft. In addition, a ground-support facility is being developed in Australia for the RAAF's long-range maritime patrol aircraft.

"The Barra Sonobuoy has proved in trials that its detection and location performance was superior to that of other Sonobuoys presently available overseas. An initial contract valued at \$14 million for the provision of Sonobuoys for Australia and the U.K. and for related support services, is now being fulfilled by a member company as prime contractor, and further production contracts are expected."

The Institution of Engineers has organised a seminar at the University of WA at 8pm today on the satellite programme.

The speakers will be the general manager of Aus-sat Pty Ltd, Mr. Graham Gosewinckel, and the head of the spacecraft communication section of the Overseas Telecommunications Corporation, Dr Mark Harwood.

CSO: 5500/7534

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

RADIO AUSTRALIA CHANGES--The Federal Department of Communication is considering a proposal to establish a new shortwave transmitter base for Radio Australia near Townsville. Radio Australia is keen to improve shortwave signals into the emerging nations of the Pacific islands. The present transmitting centre at Shepparton in north-east Victoria is too far to the south to provide reliable signals into this region. Although the Department of Communications, and Telecom Australia (which would be responsible for building and the upkeep of transmitter facilities) are tight-lipped on the proposal, new transmitters would almost certainly be at the site of the medium-wave ABC station 4QN at Clevedon. Sources close to the department say it is likely that three of the shortwave transmitters located at Shepparton will be transferred to Townsville, once approval has been given by the Federal Government. Any transmissions from a new Townsville station of Radio Australia would not be before 1984. [Text] [From the column "Short Wave" by Peter Bunn] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 25 Mar 82 (Green Guide) p 19]

CSO: 5500/7534

BRIEFS

NEW PALAPA SATELLITES--Two Palapa satellites, the B1 and B2, will be launched next year to take over the operations of the A1 and A2 Palapa satellites, whose 7-year operations are due to end. The executive director of the Telecommunications Corporation, Wily Munandir, said in Bandung that the B1 Palapa satellite will be launched in February 1983 and the B2 Palapa satellite in May the same year. He said that careful and early planning and preparations for the replacement of the Palapa satellites were highly necessary in view of the increasing utilization of this system. Apart from that, it was also because of the growing needs in the future with the rapid satellite technology. The B type Palapa satellite will have a capacity of 24 transponders. Its transmission power will also be bigger and will be able to meet the transmission needs up to 1990 to cover even small towns. [Text] [BK231603 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/2220

PAKISTAN-SAUDI MEDIA AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Karachi DAWN in English 1 May 82 pp 1, 16

[Text] ISLAMABAD, April 30--Pakistan and Saudi Arabia today signed two agreements envisaging cooperation in all fields between the national news agencies and broadcasting services of the two countries to promote and consolidate knowledge, information and mutual understanding.

The agreement, have been concluded in pursuance of the talks between Pakistan's Minister of Information Raja Mohammad Zafrul Haq and his Saudi counterpart Dr. Mohammad Abdou Yamani.

Senior officials of the two countries signed the agreements in presence of both the Ministers here this morning before Dr. Yamani and members of his delegation left for Saudi Arabia at the end of their official visit to Pakistan.

The agreement between the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) and Saudi Press Agency (SPA) provided exchange of news, photographs and feature articles.

The APP and SPA will post their correspondents in each other's country and extend to them access of their respective news cast. Both the news agencies will also exchange news and distribute the news cast of each other to their respective subscribers as well as photographs in black and white and in colour relating to official, social cultural events in their respective countries.

The agreement entitled either party to approach the other for additional news and photographic coverage of any event.

News agencies of two countries will also exchange professional and technical experience and extend assistance in professional and technical fields.

The APP and SPA agreed to maintain professional and technical

contacts with each other.

Under the agreement both the news agencies will have exclusive right to receive each other's foreign news casts free of cost within their respective territories via air mail, wireless and satellite news transmission.

Motivated by the most fraternal relations of Islam and brotherhood that exist between the two countries and prompted by the desire to promote and consolidate knowledge, information and understanding, both the countries agreed to sign this agreement.

It would be effective from the date of signing for two years and would be renewed automatically at the date of its expiry.

Dr. Abdul Aziz H. Alkawayseh, Saudi Assistant Deputy Minister of Information for Foreign Information, signed on behalf of SPA, and Mr. M. Y. Sethi, Principal Information Officer, signed on behalf of the Associated Press of Pakistan.

A three-year agreement was also signed between the Director of Jeddah Broadcasting Station, Ustas Husain al-Askari, on behalf of the broadcasting Service of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Director-General of Pakistan Broadcasting Corpe-

ration, Mr. Q. A. Saeed.

Under the agreement the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and the Broadcasting Service of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will cooperate in all fields of broadcasting in the spirit of strong friendship and deep solidarity existing between the two countries.

The two organisations will regularly exchange programmes on subjects of mutual interest, cultural activities, social and economic developments in the two countries and for the propagation of the call of Islam. These programmes would be either in Arabic or Urdu.

They have also agreed to cooperate in all fields concerning the development and operation of their broadcasting services, training and secondment of personnel on mutually agreed terms.

Under the agreement, the senior officers of the two organisations will visit each other's country annually to exchange views, experience and problems of mass media and to review the implementation of the agreement.

Earlier, Raja Mohammad Zafrul Haq presented some gifts of onyx articles to Dr. Yamani and members of his delegation.--

BRIEFS

PRODUCTION OF SATELLITE MAPS--The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has concluded an agreement with the Geological Survey of Pakistan to produce maps based on satellite picture data that will be useful in mineral survey work. SUPARCO will produce "computer-generated digital maps" drawing on pictures received from orbiting earth satellites which specialise in gathering data that can be used to detect differences in rock formation and minerals lying beneath the surface of the earth. The use of such maps for the recognition of rock types and mineral deposits will save considerable time and money, which is at present spent on field surveys. A 300 square kilometre region in the word indistinct fields near Hyderabad has been selected as a test area to co-relate the results obtained through digital maps with available geological information, supplemented by field checks to corroborate SUPARCO techniques. SUPARCO has already been using digital maps for undertaking research in agriculture and water resources over the past five years. This technique will now be used for the first time to identify different kinds of rocks and mineral deposits.--APP. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 25 Apr 82 p 2]

RADIO TELECOMMUNICATION CORPORATION RECONSTITUTED--The Federal Government has reconstituted the National Radio Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) with Mr P. K. Bandial, Secretary, Ministry of Communications, as Chairman and Maj-Gen. Abdul Sattar Chaudhry, Signal Officer-in-Chief, GHQ as Vice-Chairman. The other members of the Corporation are: Brig. Mansoorul Haq Malik, Director-General, T&T; Brig. Azhar Ali Syed, Director of Munitions Production; Air Commodore S. M. Sibtain, Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Electronics), Air Headquarters; Brig. Sirajuddin, Director of Purchase Coordination, Ministry of Defence; Malik Asrar Ahmed Khan, Financial Adviser (Communications); and Brig. M. Z. H. Rathore, General Manager, NRTC, Haripur Hazara. [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 29 Apr 82 p 5]

CSO: 5500/5783

YIN FATANG ATTENDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

HK230408 Lhasa Xizang Regional Service in Mandarin 1130 GMT 22 Apr 82

[Summary] The 12th Xizang regional posts and telecommunications work conference was recently held in Lhasa. Yin Fatang, first secretary of regional CCP committee, and Jiangcuo, vice chairman of regional people's government, attended the conference and gave speeches. Having summed up experiences, the conference pointed out the following demands and tasks for the construction and management of regional posts and telecommunications work between now and 1985.

The total amount of taxable posts and telecommunications work should increase by 3 percent over that of 1981 and the income of posts and telecommunications work should amount to approximately 3.8 million yuan. To ensure communications between Lhasa and Beijing, a ground satellite station is to be built in Lhasa. To ensure communications within Xizang, networks of long-distance phone lines are to be constructed in five districts in Lhasa municipality between May and June. Telex between Lhasa and Shannan and Rikaze and long-distance phone lines between Lhasa and Changdu, Lhasa and Rikaze, and Shannan and Naqu are to be constructed.

The conference held: We must rely on the leadership of the CCP committees and people's governments at all levels to carry out the construction of posts and telecommunications projects. We must straighten out enterprises and carry out technical renovation in a systematic manner. We must have comprehensive planning, make good use of our capital, strengthen management and adopt scientific measures to improve postal and telecommunications services. The following tasks should be carried out within this year and the next.

1. Construct Lhasa ground satellite communications station and strive to complete the task before the end of next year.
2. Strive to put 400 direct dial telephones in Changdu into operation within the year.
3. Construct two long-distance phone lines between Xizang and Gansu and between Xizang and Qinghai. Telecommunications systems are to be rearranged into nine lines connecting Lhasa and Beijing, Chengdu, Xian, Lanzhou, Tianjin and Shanghai.

4. Renovate long-distance phone lines between Lhasa and Rikaze and between Jiangzi and Yadong and strive to complete the work by the fourth quarter.

5. Increase the number of runs of the postal service. Postal services from Lhasa to all prefectures should amount to five or six times while those from prefectures to counties should be two to three times. County post offices should strengthen renovation and management work for postal service in the rural areas.

6. Do a good job of training work so as to enhance political consciousness and technical knowledge of the staff and workers.

7. Carry out overall rectification among the existing enterprises, promote democratic management and do a good job of all construction work.

CS0: 5500/2220

BRIEFS

HEILONGJIANG MICROWAVE DIALING--Beginning on 21 April, Harbin, Qiqihar, Mudanjiang and Daqing municipalities, Heilongjiang Province, opened the microwave-circuit long-distance dialing service to places throughout the country. [SK231511 Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin 2200 GMT 21 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/2220

ISSUANCE OF NEW FREQUENCIES STOPPED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Apr 82 p 2

[Text]

THE MINISTRY of Transportation and Communications suspended yesterday the issuance of permits to use two-way radios in view of its planned rationalization program.

Minister Jose P. Dans Jr. said any assignment of new frequencies would have to be approved by the Office of the President once the rationalization program takes effect.

Under the present setup, frequencies are assigned to individuals, utility companies and other entities in a random manner. The result is confusion in frequency allocation and excessive expenses for users, MOTC officials said.

There are some 5,000 entities assigned frequencies in the high, and ultra high frequency bands.

Included in the list are amateur radio operators, radio and television stations, and utility companies.

The National Telecommunications Commission, in a position paper submitted to Dans, said it is necessary to assign specific band of frequencies for specific services so as to minimize interference. Thus, a block of frequencies may be assigned to telecommunications companies, another block for emergency services and still another block for transportation companies.

CSO: 5500/5781

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ARABIC CIPHER STANDARDIZED--The Conference on the Regulation and Standardization of a Common Arabic Cipher in communications, which was held at the Institute for Studies and Research in Arabization, from 22 to 24 April 1982, on the invitation of the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Sciences and the Arab Organization for Specifications and Measurements, and with the participation of the Arab Union for Telecommunications, the Intergovernmental Bureau for Communications, the Arab Committee for the Arabization of Communications and UNESCO, ended its special meeting; and a unanimous decision was reached to regulate and standardize Arabic cipher in its final form for all the Arab countries. It is obvious to everyone that this decision is extremely important in strengthening Arab cultural unity, in implanting science and technology in our Arab nation, and in guaranteeing our social and economic development with the most modern methods. [Text] [Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 29 Apr 82 p 12]

CSO: 5500/5009

OMAN

BRIEFS

NEW TELEPHONE LINES--An agreement was signed at the Post, Telegraph and Telephone Ministry today between the ministry and the Italian company (Fishi Standar I.T.T.) to install 4 mobile telephone exchanges in the region of Matrah al-Kubra with a capacity of 4,000 new lines to reduce the pressure on the existing exchange. The project will cost 1,5487,000 [as received] Omani riyals and will be completed within 6 months. [GF171525 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/4717

BRIEFS

SATELLITE STATION CONTRACT--Doha, 18 Apr (WAKH)—A contract to construct a second ground station, Doha II, for satellite communications which will function with the satellite serving the Atlantic Ocean region was signed today. The \$10 million contract was signed with an Italian company by 'Abdallah Nasir al-Suwaydi, Qatari minister of transportation and communication. The station will be operational 6 months from the date of signing. The station will connect Qatar telephonically with the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe and West Africa. The station will operate on two frequencies. The capacity of each frequency will be 312 television channels, in addition to transmission and reception of television programs to and from the Atlantic Ocean region. Moreover, the station will provide for the exchange of cable and telex services and information. [Text] [GF181729 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/4718

COUNTRY NOT SET YET TO JOIN SOUTH AFRICAN DATA NETWORK

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 27 Apr 82 p 7

[Text]

NAMIBIA will not be plugging into SA's third national telecommunications network - Saponet - when it comes officially on stream tomorrow.

Saponet - the new data switching network involving computer linkups countrywide on video display terminals by paid subscribers - will be 'switched on' tomorrow by SA's Postmaster General Mr Henry Bester in Cape Town.

Namibia's Postmaster General Mr P W A Senekal, told The Advertiser that the small volume of subscribers in the Territory who would make use of the new data service did not warrant a link-up between the two neighbours at this stage.

"We will rather first use our available multiwave

lines for expanding the SWABC's TV services", Mr Senekal said.

"This will serve a far greater spectrum of the local population."

Mr Senekal said he could not estimate what the cost factor of linking the Territory up with Saponet would amount to.

Together with the telephone and telex networks, Saponet is SA's third national telecommunications network.

Computers now play such an increasingly important role in the economy that there are now almost as many data transmission services as telex services in use in the country.

It is precisely because of the dramatic increase in the use of data transmission (teleprocessing) ever since its introduction 14 years ago, that the Post Office decided a few years ago to establish a separate, countrywide digital

network (Saponet) for the transmission of data.

Although Saponet has been in use for two years, it has been completed only now that its packet-switching system is also being commissioned. For certain users, including the department of posts and telecommunications itself, packet-switching offers special advantages.

According to the Postmaster General's latest annual report, data services are maintaining a higher growth rate than of the other telecommunications services. Should this trend continue, as many data modems will be installed in the next two to three years as those installed over the past 14 years.

By January 1 this year there already were just under 20 000 data modems in use countrywide, compared to some 24 000 telex services. - Sapa

CSO: 5500/5778

MP URGES SABC TO SHAKE OFF GOVERNMENT 'SHACKLES'

Johannesburg, THE CITIZEN in English 7 May 82 p 4

[From the "Parliament" page]

[Text]

THE SABC had to "shake off the shackles of Government overlordship" and open its forum to true debate, Mr Dene Dalling, Progressive Federal Party media spokesman, said.

Speaking during the debate on the Foreign Affairs and Information Vote, he asked when the SABC would fulfil its true role of keeping South Africa up to date on what was really going on in the minds of its people.

"What is the value of a debate on the Steyn Commission without Judge Steyn being confronted by his critics? When are we going to see Chief Butheletzi arguing the merits of his commission's report with a Government Minister?"

"When will Black labour communicate of the total onslaught. All had carried strong political messages in line with Government

thinking.

"It seems almost, if one looks at the whole picture of television and radio, that our defence forces have only to landing to allowed to get their point of view?"

Mr Dalling said almost half the programmes broadcast at 8.30 on Tuesday nights over the past three months had dealt with the army, South Africa as a beleaguered nation-state, and the SABC seems to give them a half-hour slot.

This "massive militaristic propaganda effort" would yet prove counter-productive.

While the SABC concentrated on the total onslaught and downgraded information programmes which informed people of the country's problems, polarisation would continue and Whites in particular would remain dangerously unaware.

RADIO-FRANCE INTERNATIONAL CHANGES POLICY, PROGRAMMING

Paris LE MONDE in French 16, 17 Apr 82

[Article by Catherine Humblot: "The Future of Radio-France Internationale"]

[16 Apr 82 p 29]

[Text] I. The "Voice" Has Grown Clearer

Radio-France International, "the Voice of France" abroad, is in the process of making a radical change. A veritable "shagreen," both misunderstood and held vaguely in contempt, this broadcasting system, which was broadcasting practically only toward French-speaking Africa and the countries of the East, is threatening to compete with the BBC and Deutsche Welle within a few years. Its new director, Herve Bourges, who replaced Albert Aycard in January, has worked up a 5-year development project.

In 1987, RFI should be broadcasting to all of Africa, to Latin America, Asia and the Near East in 17 languages, with its broadcasting volume going from 125 to 739 hours per week and its annual budget from Fr 80 million to nearly Fr 400 million (in constant francs). It is an "ambitious but reasonable" project, according to Mr Bourges, and was approved in an interministerial council on 1 March. There remains, to be sure, the agreement of the Ministry of the Budget. The coming reform of radio and television broadcasting should, for its part, confirm the new importance of the station, since it is planned to make it an independent organism. Meanwhile, the people at RFI are working at double speed. Everything is moving, everything is changing: even--and especially--the state of mind.

An excellent atmosphere. Not a state of grace, but almost. This may seem strange to one familiar with the malaise prevailing everywhere else in radio and television broadcasting.

To be sure, there are tensions in Radio-France International, hesitation in the face of change, uncertainties about the future. Nevertheless, everyone

has the concrete feeling of finally emerging from nothingness, from oblivion. "Everything is being reorganized, it's like the heat of battle; people are working like madmen, but it's a very good thing," we were told by a journalist little given to indulgence for the "change."

One hardly ever heard anyone talk about RFI. True, one could not hear these broadcasts intended for abroad--at least until 28 October, that being the date when Mme Michele Cotta, president of Radio-France, made the decision to broadcast in metropolitan France, as was asked by Edem Kokjo, secretary general of the Organization of African Unity. When there was any talk of RFI, it was about the latest crisis. Radio-France International was then the place of refuge for those who, for various reasons, were no longer wanted. This produced a staff that could fall into lethargy (well-rooted in a civil-service framework) or, inversely, a troop in rebellion against a management whose departure does not seem to be too much regretted today.

In a few years, RFI had become a "shagreen," a castoff, the breakup of the ORTF [Office of French Radio and Television Broadcasting], in 1974, having served as a pretext for a Draconian amputation of its personnel and its field of action. As for the political pressures, they were an everyday matter. The journalists of RFI were not journalists like the others, like those of the other systems; they were rather considered to be civil servants.

And now everything is on the move in this little sector on the fifth floor of Radio House. A miniscule sector: some 20 offices, just 2 studios--and now it is looking forward to the highest destiny. What has happened?--a question that will be asked by those who doubt that anything can improve anywhere in the field of radio and television broadcasting.

Several factors can explain this evolution: the kind of editorial-staff revolt which, just after 10 May, called for the departure of its director, and which in particular prepared a report denouncing the mediocrity of the programs and proposed a vast reform; then the government's declared decision to provide for better diffusion of French culture abroad; then the appointment of Herve Bourges, who was capable of infusing a new spirit into the organization and who worked out a 5-year development plan, corresponding roughly to the desires of the staff and recently accepted at the top echelon; and finally, the settling of political accounts was avoided.

A Third-World Man

He loves to cultivate his brand image, and before answering questions, he asks you if you know his biography well. Mr Bourges is a Third-World person, and at the same time, a serious press professional. Editor-in-chief of TEMOIGNAGE CHRETIEN, he later became technical adviser to the president of the Algerian Republic; he founded the journalism school of Yaounde, in Cameroon, and directed that of Lille. Finally, as spokesman for Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, general director of UNESCO (he has recently been named special adviser to him for information and communication), he has written a number of books about the press and the Third World. Appointed by Mme Michele Cotta, with whom he considers that he is "in perfect agreement of thought," he says he is a party man: "I am not in the Socialist Party, but I was born on the left."

Without wishing to judge the preceding period (a "delicate matter"), Mr Bourges nevertheless declares that he found a "frightful situation": great financial casualness, little fiefs, clans, a total absence of communications among the various sectors as well as between the management and the journalists, who also were fighting among themselves. "People were moving by radar, they were practicing self-censorship; I tried to establish a little order, to create first of all a climate of confidence and cooperation, and to draw up some objectives."

Mr Bourges received the trade unions and the personnel as a whole. With Fouad Benhalla, the new editor-in-chief and soon director of information, with whom a certain consensus exists, he instituted an editorial conference every morning as well as critical meetings ("sometimes very lively," it is said).

The journalists used to go out on reporting assignments very little (many did not even know Africa!). They are sent systematically to Chad, Niger, the Ivory Coast, Iraq, etc. Then the two editorial staffs for "the East and the South" (East Europe and Africa), which had been separate, were merged, which makes it possible to avoid duplication (though not reducing all the tensions) and to set up the future nucleus of the "big world service," which will operate 24 hours a day in 1987, producing general French-language news broadcasts for the entire world and foreign-language news broadcasts for each of the countries concerned.

For the moment, RFI is continuing to produce the same number of hours with the same budget and the same personnel, except for a few piecework journalists who have been integrated. (However, more specific broadcasts are being made by RFI.) It is mainly the state of mind that has changed, and the tone. "I said to them: 'You address the public in a normal, adult tone. We are finished with the paternalistic tone, the gadget games, the news spectacles'," says Mr Bourges. "My aim is not to have the maximum audience; we are a commercial radio station. My aim is to achieve rigorous information--always more information and always more rigorous--that leaves nothing in the dark but that also does not shock the audience, their culture, their civilization."

On this delicate frontier that warrants a lot of self-censorship, just what are the limits to be crossed or not to be crossed? RFI is experiencing an exceptional financial situation, within Radio-France, since it depends for approximately half its income on the fees, and for the other half, on the ministries of External Relations, Cooperation, Labor and Culture.*

This patchwork financing, under an annual-contract system, has been broadly denounced by the personnel: "The personnel feel somewhat obligated to the payor ministries," as was stated in August notably by the Intersyndicale des Journalistes de l'Audiovisuel, in its report. Isn't there a danger here of discreet interventions, possible pressures, even friendly ones?

* Of all the ministries the Quai d'Orsay is the principal provider of funds: it gave RFI Fr 29.31 million out of a total of Fr 62.10 million for its 1980 operating account.

To Mr Bourges, the matter is clear. While it is obvious that he feels in agreement with French policy abroad, it is just as obvious that he does not have any "instructions to receive": "For me, the fact that the state is involved does not create any constraint," he says. In his view, RFI should explain the policy of the French government--that is its mission--with the understanding that if that policy is combated by the opposition, it will make the different points of view and criticisms known "without going into too much detail about the internal debates in France." As regards Africa, everything should be said, "but we do not have to destabilize a country we do not have to enter into the internal debates." More concretely, this means that information will not be concealed for diplomatic reasons, that if there are arrests in a country, RFI will talk about them after verifying them. RFI has spoken "prudently" about the arrests in Gabon (it would not have done so last year), despite the intervention of the Gabonese authorities (LE MONDE of 6 April).

Everyone recognizes here that there is no more pressure from the French government. "Interventions? There have not been any up to now," a journalist confided to us; we were asked once what had been said about a particular problem, but never have we been told not to talk about an affair." The editorial staff seems aware of "its specific role," of being in a situation "more delicate than elsewhere," of "being an element of foreign policy"; doesn't it run the risk of being too aware of its "enormous responsibilities" and of being too prudent? "It is obvious that there are subjects on which care will be taken not to create diplomatic incidents," says a journalist. "It is true that a situation can be destabilized very quickly, and we navigate between different parties' susceptibilities; the stakes are important, one has to be very delicate, but we are journalists and news is our job. When the Gabonese government protested after the arrests were spoken of, saying that the report was false, the reply was made to them: 'If you want to deny it, you may use our broadcasting facilities.' It did not take the offer. But what the African governments have a hard time understanding is that if a news item is reported, it is not on the order of the Quai d'Orsay." Perhaps because RFI has until now compromised itself too often, deliberately influencing the political evolution of a country such as Chad (where the broadcasting system is heartily disliked today), or maintaining excessive silence.

In any case, the journalists and the staff have suffered too much from psychological blackmail over a budget that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could renew or not; they absolutely want Radio France to have the major voice in the budget of the future autonomous national company that the new law is to institute. Furthermore, this is not only a political problem; it is a major question for the technicians, who want to continue to be able to go from one company to another. It appears that this has been achieved.

For Herve Bourges, defender of a "new international order of information," of a dialog of cultures, "a small revolution" in Radio-France International has already taken place. As proof of this, he cites the "grid" of the South broadcasting system, which was renewed almost entirely on 29 March, and the reorganization of another sector that also comes under Radio-France International (though financed differently)--a sector less visible and just as important: the one called the "cooperation" sector.

RFI's Broadcasts

RFI currently broadcasts on short-wave to French-speaking Africa, East Europe and the east coast of North America; it broadcasts on short and medium waves to several countries of Europe; and on medium waves to the immigrant workers in France.

The South network broadcasts 16.5 hours of programs in French per day to Africa and the Indian Ocean and 1 hour in English.

The East network broadcasts 15 hours of programs in French per day to East Europe, and for the last several months, half an hour in Polish.

The West network broadcasts 5 hours of programs per day (direct relay of the broadcasts of France-Inter) to the east coast of North America.

It broadcasts 1 hour per day to the GDR in German, 1 hour to Spain in Spanish and 1 hour to Portugal in Portuguese.

Finally, every day except Sunday, it puts out, from 5 to 7 am, broadcasts in Spanish, Arabic, Yugoslavian, Italian, Turkish, etc, for the immigrant workers in France.

28th Place

RFI is in 28th place in short-wave broadcasting abroad, with 125 hours per week in 5 languages. This is very far behind the USSR and the United States (Voice of America), far behind Deutsche Welle, which broadcasts 804 hours in 33 languages, and the BBC, which broadcasts 719 hours in 39 languages. It comes after Italy, Spain, Japan, The Netherlands, Sweden, Egypt, Albania, etc.

In 1981, RFI's budget was Fr 70 million, while that of the Voice of America was Fr 510 million, that of the BBC's foreign service was Fr 410 million, and that of Deutsche Welle was Fr 700 million.

RFI has 20 transmitters, all in France, while Deutsche Welle has 29, 12 of them abroad, and the BBC has 68, with 30 abroad.

[17 Apr 82 p 30]

[Text] II. The New Grid, Cooperation

There is one sector in which things are going smoothly in the audiovisual broadcasting field. Since the 5-year development plan--an ambitious plan presented by Herve Bourges, the new director of Radio-France International--was approved at the interministerial meeting on 1 March, a state of grace almost prevails on the fifth floor of Radio House.

A state of grace strongly tempered by the absolute insufficiency of means (technical and human) and a certain uneasiness

for as long as the budget is not passed. In this transitional period, many things have begun to change, though: the merger of the East and South editorial staffs, reorganization, restructuring, state of mind also (LE MONDE of 16 April). This is evidenced by the new program grid set up on 29 March and the questions raised in another sector less well-known but also coming under RFI--cooperation.

South network, East network. The former broadcasts to Africa every day (from 4 am to 9:30 pm), and the latter to East Europe (from 5 am to 8 pm). The times given are GMT.

The South network has been thoroughly overhauled. While the broadcasting-time volume remains the same (125 hours per week), the proportion of specifically oriented broadcasts has increased (from 50 percent to 60 percent), with the rest coming from France-Inter, France-Culture, France-Musique.

The big change is the position assigned to news (52 percent of the grid's total). In the morning, Mr Bourges has eliminated the question-answer game with the listeners (commercial-radio style) as well as to do practically continuous news broadcasting: from 7 to 10 am there are three big international news broadcasts, a specifically African news broadcast, a France-Inter news broadcast retransmitted direct (RFI retransmits three per day), a press review, news articles, etc. In the evening, instead of records there are cultural programs of all sorts.

With his policy of North-South dialogue, Mr Bourges has taken on, along with three French news-report writers of different sensitivities (Paul Marie de la Gorce of LE FIGARO, Guy Perrimon of L'UNITE, Philippe Simonnot, former contributor to LE MONDE), a number of Third World personalities (Henri Lopes, Babacar Sine) and specialists in current affairs (Alain Bourgui, Marc Gentilini).

Still in the same spirit, there will soon be a monthly technical and scientific feature program entrusted to Henri Hogbe-Nlend, an African expert, a feature program to be run by the Upper Volta historian Joseph Kiserbo, and a Third World press club program, a monthly feature from which the boss of RFI expects much. A principle: if a personality of the North is interviewed, Third World journalists will do the interview; and vice-versa if the subject is a Third World personality.

The tone and content of the news have changed, on the whole: more reportage, analysis rather than commentaries.

It is quite difficult, though, to judge the composition of a program intended for another continent. Only Africans could do so. From the "1,000-Francs Game" to the big feature programs on health, from Pierre Bouteiller's feature program to "Carrefour" [Crossroads]--a highly regarded program that deals with very varied subjects (Soviet strategy in Africa, being Jewish in 1982, the future of Lebanon, El Salvador)--and from "Tropical Channel," a lively broadcast on the music of the Caribbean, to cultural broadcasts such as "Meri-

dian": it is a curious patchwork, and one wonders whether it is still all well-suited. The variety programs are richer (there are no more "disadvised" records, but they remain very French). The expression purposely professorial [as published]. Joseph Kisebho, who makes sure that RFI is very widely listened to, told us that the listeners expected a vision, a point of view based more on Africa as a starting-point: "Africa is still viewed as a stake, but people would like to see it become a subject."

For the East network, the problem is different. The listening audience is, in contrast, interested in French culture and the French-language broadcasts. RFI's specific part has increased: it is 36 percent as against 30 percent last year (the specifications stipulate 10 percent). Since the events in Poland, the East network has been broadcasting 30 minutes of news per day in Polish, neither for Solidarity nor for the government: it gives the position or positions of France on the big events in the world. With prudence.

But RFI has other activities too--less spectacular, perhaps, but just as important. This sector, which derives from another philosophy, does not, it seems, have an equivalent anywhere else in the world, and Deutsche Welle is thinking about taking inspiration from it. The sector is called cooperation, and it too is in the process of being fully reorganized.

Forty-three African Radio Systems

Cooperation has been offering services of all sorts free of charge to 43 African radio systems for several years. It sends out broadcasts selected from France-Inter, France-Musique and France-Culture, broadcasts specially designed for these radio systems on their request and for their sole use, sound elements (interviews to be produced, for example) [as published], written dossiers, documentary fiches, books, records, etc--everything that might be needed by the African radio systems that lack equipment, money. It also organizes contests, and twice a day sends out 30 minutes of sound elements and news on short wave.

Cooperation is apparently the sector that has the greatest experience of Africa. Certain of its dossiers--on youth in Africa, for example--are remarkable. In great demand also are the economic and social feature programs and the historical series--in particular, "Memoire of a Continent" and "The Great Witnesses of History" (on the last 50 years).

A help, assuredly. But does it amount to an aid to inertia, or does it act as a stimulant? Should finished broadcasts be sent, or sound elements to be worked up? In the view of Jean-Paul Chaillet, special assistant to Mr Bourges, as well as in the view of the latter, it is a matter of making a very close review of cooperation action, of not substituting themselves for the people but of going on from production to coproduction, to exchange. "The African radio systems have been evolving in the last few years," says the director of RFI; "there is a new generation of journalists who no longer need to be mothered." The broadcast-press and written-press agency that is in the process of being set up must reflect this mutual exchange of information and services.

While the personnel as a whole are satisfied with the development of RFI, a number are beginning to complain also about excessive work, shortage of personnel, of equipment, of space* (certain interviews practically take place in the halls); and while it is murmured in some quarters that part of the editorial staff continues to sleep, others are visibly on the verge of saturation.

Finally, a more moral question arises: isn't the development of RFI in reality a formidable act of aggression? Doesn't this considerable expansion represent a form of cultural imperialism, even if counterbalanced by North-South "rebalancings"? It is not the least of paradoxes to note that it is the left that today is building up this instrument just recently denounced as a propaganda tool. So do we have a new international order of information, or cultural imperialism? "Yes and no," we were answered here; "if one did not do this, the others do it in any case, and may one disarm?" "France is a medium-size power that needs to make its policy known, to diffuse its culture," Fouad Benahlla, the editor-in-chief, explains again. "Nor should it be forgotten that in a good many countries, problems of democracy arise. We can play our role. We can also have a policy of noncompetition as regards the programs. If one wanted to 'clean up,' one would do children's programs, one would, precisely, broadcast African music." But for Mr Bourges and his team, there is no question of competing with the African radio systems, or with the others. "Imperialism, perhaps," he says; "but if this radio system is a voice of brotherhood?"

The 5-Year Development Program (1983-1987)

The 5-year plan, the principles, directives and content of which were approved at the interministerial council meeting of 1 March, was prepared by Herve Bourges after a 16-page initial proposal entitled "Development of the Activities of Radio-France International 1982-1983-1984 and Beyond," which served as the working basis for a series of preliminary interministerial meetings held under the chairmanship of Jerome Clement, technical adviser to the Matignon for the problems of culture and communication, for the specific purpose of studying the development of France's radio action vis-a-vis foreign countries.

Noting the French government's desire to provide worldwide radio action and active cooperation with the Third World, and calling attention to the enormous gap in this area as compared with other countries, the text stresses first of all the necessity of correcting the situation. The purpose of the proposed plan is to establish the stages for this at the same time as a philosophy ("two leading ideas"). It is essentially a matter of developing "the voice of France" abroad, but instituting new relationships at the same time.

Development of the Voice of France

RFI should broaden its geographic coverage, multiply its foreign-language broadcasts and increase the number of its program hours.

* There are 12 studios--not 2, as we wrote yesterday--and some 40 offices.

RFI, which until now was essentially broadcasting to French-speaking Africa and the countries of East Europe, will gradually extend itself to all of Africa (English-speaking and Portuguese-speaking), gradually introducing broadcasts in English, Portuguese, Swahili, Amharic, Arabic and Hausa. For the countries of East Europe, it will likewise introduce--in addition to French and Polish--Russian, Serbo-Croatian and Romanian. In Latin America, to which it is beginning to broadcast in 1982, it will intensify its action with broadcasts in three languages (French, Spanish and Brazilian). In 1983, it will start up in the Near East with broadcasts in French and in Arabic (and perhaps in Persian later). In 1985, it will begin in Asia with broadcasts in French and in four Asian languages (Mandarin, Laotian, Khmer and Vietnamese).

Thus, in 5 years RFI will go from 35 to 739 hours of broadcasts per week and from 5 to 17 languages, with a doubling of the number of its transmitters (from 20 to 40).

Institution of New Relations with the States and the Peoples

The text speaks of eliminating "any spirit of domination, of supervision, indeed of substitution," and on the contrary, of encouraging North-South and South-South dialogue and debate with the idea of a "new world order of information."

In its second part, the text takes up the differences existing structures [as published] and their evolution (or restructuring).

For Direct Broadcasts

The two present editorial staffs (East and South) are being entirely merged and reorganized so as to achieve, in 1987, a single large editorial staff, a "world service" operating 24 hours a day and providing, in French, common news programs for all countries and specific news broadcasts for each individual country. A languages section is being created in parallel with this.

Cooperation Action

This sector, which for many years has been helping 43 African radio systems, giving them the most varied services free of charge (sending of broadcasts, records, fiches, etc), will also be reorganized so as to open up the other countries of the Third World. Its content will be thought out anew, and its actions are to be oriented more toward coproduction, aid to creation, professional training, on-the-spot assistance.

The Written-Press and Broadcast-Press Agency

This agency, whose name will be Medias France Intercontinents (MFI), is being planned a bit apart. This sector, which is taking over both the activities of the NAP (NOUVELLE AGENCE DE PRESSE), recently dissolved, that of the broadcast-press agency which furnishes sound elements and news to the African radio systems twice a day, within the framework of cooperation, as well as a part of the written production under cooperation, is to become a real agency for pro-

duction of written and broadcast material, and its action will go in two directions: it will furnish to the Third World press (radio systems and newspapers), but also to the French press--the provincial press in particular--news materials (reportages, summaries, fiches) that are generally not produced by the international agencies.

Budget

In order to be carried out, this plan provides for an annual budget that will, of course, increase considerably, rising from Fr 80 million in 1981 to Fr 388 million (constant francs) in 1987 (a budget lower than that of the BBC and of Deutsche Welle, and in addition, covering the cooperation actions also).

As regards the personnel, although the plan does not give any specific details on this subject, hiring is planned also. The personnel could increase from a permanent staff of 174 (98 journalists plus 76 administrative and production staff) and about 150 piecework journalists (the situation in 1982) to a permanent staff of 700 and about 400 piecework journalists in 1985, and in 1987, 1,500 permanent staff and about 500 piecework journalists.

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